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#### ABSTRACT

A study measured the effectiveness of traditional classroom instruction versus computer-assisted instruction (CAI) in raising the competency levels of adults enrolled in adult basic education (ABE) classes one grade level for each 80 hours of instruction. Classes were conducted in Indianapolis and Richmond, Indiana, from November 1988 to April 1990. Target population for the study was economically disadvantaged adults, predominantly female, aged 17 to 67; 50 of 149 students completed the program and were compared for the study. Evaluation methodology included classroom observation, student surveys and interviews, reviews of instructional records and materials, joint site meetings, and interviews of project administrators. Testing was conducted upon entry, at 30-day intervals, and upon exit. The overall average grade level gain for all study completers was 2.2 grades at Indianapolis and 1.96 at Richmond. The overall average grade gain for CAI students was 2.6 grades compared with an average of 1.84 grades for non-CAI students. Older students made greater progress and dropped out less frequently than younger students. According to the study, the major strength of CAI was that students could monitor their own progress and affirm their mastery of skills. The traditional classroom approach often brought back earlier negative experiences for students, although instructors in both classrooms were empathetic and supportive. The study concluded that CAI works well with this population, particularly when there is an appropriate range of software. (KC)

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#### INDIANA OIC'S OF AMERICA STATE COUNCIL

FINAL REPORT

FOR

**GRANT #V191A80008** 

SUBMITTED TO

Mr. Rich Dicola AND Mr. Jim Parker

PROGRAM MANAGERS

FOR

NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM GRANTEES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

C/O

Mr. Richard DiCola OVAE/DNP/PIB U.S. Department of Education Switzer Building, Room 4512 Washington, D.C. 20202-7542

SUBMITTED BY

MR. JOSEPH E. MATTHEWS, III **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** INDIANA OIC/A STATE COUNCIL 2445 North Meridian Street, Suite 200 Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 (317) 924-9440

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September 28, 1990



Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-ment do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

#### INDIANA OIC'S OF AMERICA STATE COUNCIL

#### THIRD-PARTY EVALUATOR FINAL REPORT

for

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ADULT EDUCATION INDIANAPOLIS / RICHMOND

[ U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISCRETICHARY PROGRAM ]

PERIOD COVERED: November 01, 1988 - April 30, 1990

#### SUBMITTE TO

Joseph E. Matthews III
Executive Director
Indiana OIC/A State Council
2445 N. Meridian Street, Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46208

SUBMITTED BY

Glenn S. White President SYNTHESIS, Inc. 3419 N. Pennsylvania, E-3 Indianapolis, IN 46205 (317) 826-2819



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#### INTRODUCTION

The study was to measure the effectiveness of two methods traditional classroom and computer-assisted - for teaching
adults who tested below 12th grade/GED competency levels on
the Adult Basic Learning Evaluation (ABLE) test. The purpose
was to measure the effectiveness of the two methods in
raising skill(s) levels by one grade level per 80 hours of
instruction. A corollary purpose was to ascertain which
method more greatly enhanced the acquisition (i.e., learning
style) and retention rates for those skills over prescribed
periods of time (e.g., 30 - 60 - 90+ days).

Classes began November 1988 at the Indianapolis site and December 1988 at the Richmond site and ended April 1990 at both sites.

The target population for the study would have the following characteristics: age range (16 to 60+ years); low income/economically disadvantaged; un- or underemployed; and predominately female (e.g., Work Incentive [WIN] referrals).

In addition, it was expected that the respective site populations would provide other distinct areas for comparison such as sociological background of participants and other demographic indicators.



#### METHODOLOGY

The evaluation methodology was multi-dimensional. Data collection procedures included the following: 1) classroom observations; 2) student surveys and interviews; 4) reviews of instructional records and materials; 5) joint site meetings; and 6) interviews of project administrators.

Testing procedures upon entry, at 30-day intervals and upon exiting were established to determine changes in performance levels using the ABLE as the testing instrume. The 4-MAT System test (4-MAT) was introduced later to assist identification of individual student learning styles.

This evaluation report is based upon data collected over a period of eighteen months. Observations and interviews were conducted: class sessions at both sites were observed (four occasions at Indianapolis and three at Richmond); all students were able to respond to a written survey and selected students at both sites were interviewed personally. Monthly and quarterly reports were compiled by the class instructors/aides and reviewed by the project administrator. Testing (entry, 30-day and exit) was conducted to the greatest extent possible. Student records were maintained by the respective instructors and/or classroom aides.

#### STUDY POPULATION

A total of 149 participants were enrolled and 50 met the criteria\* for the comparison purposes of the study. Age range for the total population was 17 to 67 years: average age 32.3 years.



Entry literacy levels for the total population were from less than first grade (0.9) to grade 13.0. There were 51 males (34% of total) and 98 females (66% of total) in the study population and income levels ranged from less than \$10,000 to more than \$20,000. For better comparison purposes, the study population was categorized by literacy grade levels based upon entry test scores: Level 1 (0 - 4.9); Level 2 (5.0 - 8.9) and Level 3 (9.0 - 12.0).

#### STUDY QUESTIONS

To address some concerns of the readers of this evaluation report the following questions were considered:

- 1. Was 80 hours an appropriate measure for progress?
- 2. Does the program work equally well for learners of different ages, different backgrounds (e.g., entry literacy levels, 'ncome levels)?
- 3. Does one method appear to be better suited for a certain "type" learner e.g., as identified by the 4-MAT test?
- 4. What impact does the instructor have on the learning process given the two methods used?
- 5. What appear to be the strengths and weaknesses of each method? Which method appears to be better for this study population?



<sup>\*</sup> Completed both ABLE entry (scoring 0 - 12.0) and post tests; and attended more than 30 hours.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

	Indianapolis	Richmond	Total	
Total Students:	78	71	149	
Female: Male:	55 (71%) 23 (29%)		98 (66%) 51 (34%)	
Age Level:				
16 - 24 25 - 44 45 -59 60 or more	25 (32%) 36 (46%) 14 (18%) 3 (4%)	24 (34%) 38 (54%) 6 (8%) 3 (4%)	49 (33%) 74 (50%) 20 (13%) 6 (4%)	
Average Age:	33.0	31.1		
Income Level:				
10,000 or less 10-14,999 15-19,999 20,000 or more	69 (88%) 9 (12%) -0- -0-		131 (88%) 12 (8%) 4 (3%) 2 (1%)	
<u>Literacy</u> <u>Level:</u>				
0 - 4.9 5.0 - 8.9 9.0 - 12.0	30 (39%) 39 (49%) 9 (12%)	26 (37%)	40 (27%) 65 (44%) 44 (30%)	
Average Score:	7.3	8.3		
Hours in Class:				
30 or less 31 - 60 61 - 90 90 - 120 120 or more	32 (42%) 10 (13%) 5 (6%) 4 (5%) 27 (34%)	19 (27%) 12 (17%) 8 (11%) 1 (1%) 30 (43%)	51 (34%) 22 (15%) 13 (9%) 5 (3%) 57 (38%)	



### STUDENTS COMPLETING PROCESS

#### <u>Indianapolis</u>

Code	<u>Sex</u>	Age	Last <u>Grade</u>	<u>Hours</u>	Ent.	Post	Grade <u>Change</u>	% Chg.	Learner <u>Type</u>
K2 >	F	67	10	1,152	8.1	10.2	2.1	26%	N/T > 2.4
E1 >	F	30	10	1,506	6.4	11.5	5.1	80%	N/T >22.0
B <b>1</b>	M	22	11	114	7.4	8.2	0.8	9%	N/T
H1	F	49	8	1,014	5.9	10.8	4.9	83%	N/T
F1	F	38	11	132	8.3	9.4	1.1	13%	N/T
H1 >	F	57	12	726	9.0	11.4	2.4	27%	1 >15.0
E2	F	33	10	618	6.2	7.6	1.4	23%	N/T
E1 >	F	26	11	1,320	7.3	10.7	3.4	47%	2 >22.0
F1 >	F	40	10	1,422	9.7	12.9	3.2	33%	1/2 >21.0
E1 >	F	41	10	120	9.9	9.9	-0-	0%	1 > 0.5
E1 >	F	32	10	126	7.1	8.2	1.1	15%	N/T > 0.5
E2 >	M	28	11	660	11.1	12.0	1.0 *	9%	N/T > 0.5
В1	M	18	10	144	7.2	8.6	1.4	19%	N/T
E 1	F	23	11	198	11.2	12.9	1.7	15%	N/T
H2 >	F	49	10	1,074	8.1	12.4	4.3 *	53%	4 >16.0
G1	F	59	6	240	1.3	2.6	1.3	100%	4
G1 >	F	46	8	1,374	4.1	5.1	1.0	24%	4 > 3.0
E1	F	40	10	174	5.4	8.0	2.6	48%	N/T
G1 >	F	31	11	1,698	3.9	4.5	0.6	15%	4 > 5.0
D1	M	39	11	132	4.5	6.9	2.4	53%	N/T
G1 >	F	55	9	564	5.0	8.0	3.0	60%	2 > 1.0
H1 >	F	46	11	1,500	8.5	12.9	4.4	52%	1/4 > 10.2
H2	F	54	9	378	6.0	10.0	4.0	67%	N/T
J1	M	63	6	414	1.3	2.6	1.3	100%	N/T
H1 >	F	59	10	324	5.7	6.3	0.6	11%	N/T > 1.5
111 /	•	33	10	324	3.1	0.3	0.0	11/0	N/1 / 1.5
Avera	ge:	41.8	9.8	684.9	6.7	8.9	2.2	39.2%	

Ent. = Entry (Pre-Test)

N/T Not Tested



<sup>&</sup>gt; Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI) Hours

<sup>\*</sup> Passed GED Test.

### STUDENTS COMPLETING PROCESS

#### Richmond

<u>Code</u>	<u>Sex</u>	Age	Last <u>Grade</u>	Hours	Ent.	Post	Grade <u>Change</u>	% Chg.	Learner Type
В1	F	24	9	246	7.7	8.6	0.9	12%	1
В1	F	23	9	480	7.3	11.4	4.1	56%	i
F1	F	35	7	576	9.4	11.9	2.5	27%	i
Н1	F	51	8	465	6.0	8.6	2.6	43%	2
F1	F	28	10	252	10.2	11.6	1.4	14%	2 1
E 1	F	25	11	426	8.6	11.0	2.4	28%	2
L.1	М	61	8	408	12.0	11.7	-0.3	3%	N/T
<b>E</b> 1	M	44	9	864	6.2	10.2	4.0	65%	1
K1	F	65	8	1,230	6.9	12.7	5.8	84%	4
F1	F	40	7	186	10.6	11.4	0.8 *	8%	N/T
E1	F	30	9	159	8.8	12.3	3.5	40%	N/T
E 1	F	26	9 7	36	6.7	7.7	1.0	15%	N/T
F1	F	26	9	114	9.8	10.7	0.9	.9%	N/T
F 1	F	30	9	171	9.0	11.9	2.9	32%	1
C1	F	24	8	327	9.2	12.1	2.9	32%	1
B 1	F	23	8 9	246	6.9	7.1	0.2	3%	1
F1	F	28	9	32 i	9.9	12.6	2.7	27%	4
C1	M	35	9	168	6.1	9.2	3.1	50%	3
L3	F	60	9	186	11.0	9.2	-1.8	-16%	3 2 4
C4	M	18	10	204	9.7	11.2	1.5	15%	4
F 1	F	28	7	543	10.2	13.0	2.8	27%	4
D1	F	37	6	321	2.3	5.4	3.1	134%	4
G1	M	45	4	120	3.5	3.4	-0.1	3%	4
D1	M	40	8	111	1.3	0.7	-0.6	46%	4
C1	M	20	11	246	10.1	13.0	3.1	31%	N/T
Avera	ge:	34.6	8.3	336.2	7.9	9.9	1.98	31.2%	

Ent. = Entry (Pre-Test)

N/T Not Tested



<sup>\*</sup> Passed GED Test

### STUDENT DROPOUTS

### <u>Indianapolis</u>

			Last		
Code	Sex	Age	Grade	<u>Hours</u>	_Ent.
D1	F	31	12	30	3.2
A 1	F	17	10	24	3.3
E1	F	33	11	12	7.0
A 1	F	17	10	84	3.3
D1	M F	40 29	10 9	108 6	2.5
D1 C1	Г F	19	11	42	11.ວ
E1	F	37	10	12	7,2
Ā1	F	17	10	6	• 7 =
D1	F	36	11	6	
B2	F	18	10	54	10.4
<b>D1</b>	F	25	11	12	7.3
F 1	F	32	8	12	11.0
B1	F	18	10	12	
D1	M	42	9	30	4.5
E1	F	38	10	14	9.5
B1 B2	M F	18 20	11 11	36 06	5.0 7.7
D1	F	33	11	96 30	4.9
H1	F	45	9	6	4.3
J1	M	65	9	6	4.5
D1	F	31	10	43	6.4
В1	M	18	11	18	8.1
E 2	М	27	10	6	11.0
11	M	48	11	684	11.7
В1	M	· 21	11	6	8.9
A1	M	20	10	12	9.2
D1	F	29	10	12	
E1 C1	M F	32 18	11 11	42 60	6.8
B1	Г М	19	12	84	9.5 5.8
D2	F	29	12	66	4.6
A1	M	17	9	12	7.0
F 1	M	32	11	72	11.8
A1	F	23	11	12	
C1	F	23	9	12	9.8
В1	F	21	10	30	7.1
E1	М	31	10	60	7.8
E1	F	30	10	42	8.6
E1	M	36	11	198	8.1
D1 B1	M	40 23	10 12	24 12	10.7
D1	M F	43	11	42	9.6 6.9
A1	F	22	10	6	8.8
B1	, F	21	11	54	9.9
F1	F	26	11	18	11.1
В1	F	18	11	18	6.2

### STUDENT DROPOUTS

### Indianapolis (Contd.)

Code	Sex	<u>Age</u>	Last <u>Grade</u>	<u>Hours</u>	Ent.
E1	F	29	10	6	7.2
E1	F	31	10	114	7.0
A 1	М	18	-10	6	
G1	F	51	10	6	
G1	F	51	11	12	
A 1	F	23	8	12	5.2
Avera	ge	28.8 1	0.3	49.2	7.6

### Richmond

<u>Code</u>	<u>Sex</u>	Age	Last <u>Grade</u>	<u>Hours</u>	Ent.	
E1	F	31	7	180	6.5	
13	5	54	10	156	10.5	
F1	F	28	9	180	12.5	
F1	F	25	10		12.1	*
F1	F	42	9	156	11.8	*
F 1	M	39	10	18	13.0	*
F 1	M	32	8	75	13.0	*
В1	M	18	9	15	8.4	
F1	F	37	9	66	10.3	
01	M	18	11	74	10.5	
C1	М	17	11	12	11.7	
C3	М	17	9	3	11.5	
C1	F	20	9	3	9.8	
B 1	М	17	8	36	8.8	
11	M	52	8	12	12.0	
E 1	F	27	9	33	8.7	
B1	F	26	9	39	7.9	
C1	M	18	11	30	12.6	
C1	F	19	12	6	11.0	
B1	F	23	10	45	7.0	
B 1	F	23	10	24	8.3	
C3	F	21	11	30	10.0	
F1	F	31	10	69	10.6	
F1	F	39	9	6	13.0	
11	F	47	6	69	3.1	
C1	M	18	11	30	12.7	
E1	F	29	7	42	5.3	
D1	M	35	6	15	0.9	
E1	M	30	8	24	8.4	
E1	F	29	10	48	6.9	
B1	F	22	9	30	5.6	
C1	M F	23 21	11	30 150	9.8	
B 1	Г	41	11	150	€.6	

### STUDENT DROPOUTS

Richmond (contd.)

			Last		
Code	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Hours</u>	Ent.
C1	F	18	10	6	13.0
F2	M	26	10	54	13.0
E2	M	33	8	78	6.9
E1	M	29	11	30	6.6
F1	F	32	11	126	11.8
D1	M	35	5	91	1.9
E1	M	29	11	28	5.2
G1	M	46	9	84	5.1
D1	М	40	10	48	2.0
A1	F	22	10	40	2.2
D1	F	36	6	33	1.9
D1	M	44	9	45	4.0
E2	F	31	10	81	5.3
Avera	ge:	29.3	9.2	52.3	<u>8.5</u>

<sup>\*</sup> Passed GED Test



#### FINDINGS

#### Instructional Setting

The instructional setting and procedures at both sites met expectations and requirements for establishing "learningconducive" surroundings. Four visits and three visits were made by the evaluator to the Indianapolis and Richmond sites. respectively: the instructors were interviewed; classes observed; and records system reviewed. Conclusions were that accurate procedures for recording student data, file coding, etc., were followed on a routine basis at Richmond. However, Indiana olis had ongoing problems with accurate recording of student data (e.g., student coding, t ;t results, etc.) which may have had a critical effect on the results compiled and reviewed for this and prior reports. One identified cause of the problem at the Indianapolis site was the incompetence of the classroom aide who had been assigned specific responsibilities - e.g., assisting in testing; recording data; etc. Bureaucratic procedures (the site is an outreach site operated in conjunction with the Indianapolis Public Schools [IPS] system) delayed replacement of this individual until 75% of the project period had elapsed. Another problem may have been correlating data for this study with other reporting requirements mandated by the IPS system.

At each visit, the evaluator found the instructors and aides to be consistently cooperative, dedicated and competent - with the exception of the Indianapolis aide already noted.



The Richmond site had two lead instructors during the course of the project. The first instructor served from 12/88 to 05/89; the second instructor served from 08/89 to 04/90.

At both sites, treatment of students was consistently respectful, sensitive and supportive. Students had high regard for instructors that was expressed via student surveys midway through the project and selected one-on-one interviews at the project's conclusion.

The instructional setting/format at the Indianapolis site was modified (01/90) to a rotating, "learning-station" concept in an attempt to better monitor student progress in each subject area, to facilitate more self-help (e.g., computer time) and to stimulate group activity for those on similar learning levels.

Instructional facilities were different physically in that the Indianapolis site was located in the administration-community center of a public housing project and the Richmond site was housd in an older, vacated school building. The Indianapolis facility's space was restrictive at times due to the number of students and the inability to expand to another room due to other activities occurring in the building. The Richmond facility had no space restrictions.

#### The Students

Out of a total of 149 students enrolled during the course of the study - 78 at Indianapolis and 71 at Richmond - fifty students met the criteria for this study.



Although the overall student profile at both sites was quite similar, the following comparisons have been noted:

- 1. There was greater variation in income levels at Richmond while the Indianapolis site had virtually no variation.
- 2. While the age range for the total student population (17 -67 years) was the same at both sites, the average age at Indianapolis was two years older than at Richmond (33.0 years compared with 31.1 years).
- 3. Average entry literacy level for the total population was 7.8. However, the Richmond overall entry level was one grade higher (8.3) than the overall indianapolis entry level (7.3).

#### Completers

Twenty-five students at each site completed the process i.e., completed both ABLE entry (scoring 12.0 or below) and
post tests; and attended more than 30 hrs. Ages ranged from
18 -67 years at Indianapolis (average: 41.8 years); and 18 61 years at Richmond (average: 34.6 years).

Entry literacy levels ranged from grade 1.3 at both sites to grade 11.2 at Indianapolis and grade 12.0 at Richmond. Although the mean entry literacy level for all completers was grade 7.5, the mean scores were: Indianapolis grade 6.7 and Richmond grade 7.9.

The average last grade completed was 9.8 at Indianapolis and 8.3 at Richmond. The difference between men and women at the respective sites was almost negligible: Indianapolis - men 9.8 / women 9.85; Richmond - men 8.4 / women 8.3.

At Indianapolis there were 5 men and 20 women completers; at Richmond there were 7 men and 18 women completers.



Annual income levels were as follows: Indianapolis - 20 students (16 women and 4 men) received \$10,000 or less and 5 students (4 women and 1 man) were at the \$11-14,999 level; Richmond - 23 students (17 women and 6 men) received \$10,000 or less, one woman (employed) was at the \$15-19,999 level and one man (retired) received \$20,000-plus.

#### Instructional Time

The Indianapolis site operated 30 hours per week (6 hours per day) throughout the 18-month study. Due to start-up challenges (e.g., student confirmations; scheduling conflicts), the Richmond site operated 15 hours per week (3 hours per day) from December 1988 - June 1989 and 30 hours per week (6 hours per day) from August 1989 through April 1990.

Completers compiled the following instructional hours: 17,124 hours at Indianapolis and 8,406 hours at Richmond.

Computer assisted instruction at Indianapolis resulted in 7,634 minutes or 127.2 hours of computer assistance being utilized by 15 students or 60% of the 25 completers with the following results: computer time ranged from 21 minutes with a 1.1 grade change (or 15% increase) to 22 hours with a 5.1 grade change (or 80% increase).

(See Page 5 CAI students.)

#### Grade Level Changes as Indicated by Entry/Post Tests

Grade level changes among all completers ranged from a negative grade change of -1.8 to a gain of 5.8 grade levels, according to entry:post test results: the mean net gain at



Indianapolis was 2.16 and at Richmond it was 1.96. Among males the gain was 1.36 (Indianapolis) and 1.5 (Richmond); among Temales the gain was 2.25 (Indianapolis) and 2.14 (Richmond). The greatest grade level gain indicated by age clusters was within the Indianapolis 45 - 59 year group (2.8) followed by the Richmond and Indianapolis 25 - 44 year group (2.2 and 2.0 respectively). Lowest gains were in the Richmond 60+ year group (1.2); the Indianapolis 16 - 24 year group (1.3); and the Richmond 45 - 59 year group (1.3). (See Attachment for complete breakdown.)

Income is all appeared to have little effect on grade level achievems changes during the period of this study.

The distribution of grade level change as percentage gains by number of students is as follows:

% Gain	<u>Indianapolis</u> <u>Richmond</u>
< - 0%	
0 - 9%	
10 - 19%	
20 - 29%	
30 - 39%	
40 - 49%	
50 - 59%	
60 - 69%	
70 - 79%	
80 - 89%	
90 - 99%	
100%	+

#### Reliability of Test Results

A review of test scores indicates that there are several reasons to question the reliability of the ABLE test as an accurate measurement of student progress - this is particularly significant when the Richmond scores indicate



four instances of negative progress (using the same test material for entry and post testing purposes); the decline is of particular concern regarding higher than average entry test scores (i.e., grade 11.0 and above and good attendance). The ABLE Level 2 was the only test administered at the Richmond site.

Consequently, actual progress is difficult to ascertain since results could be attributed to several variables including memory/retention of test material; test-taking ability; time interval between testings; and ir reset and/or boredom with test material. Regrettably, re-testing with different material was not an available option due to lack of alternative test materials and resources to obtain those materials.

At the Indianapolis site, the recording of test scores was not consistent during initial/interim phases of the project; however, it appears that post test results are reliable.

Dropouts

A total of 99 participants (who were recorded as "enrolled") terminated their participation before both entry and post testing could be completed. There were 53 dropouts (68%) at Indianapolis (18 male; 35 female) and 47 dropouts (66%) at Richmond (22 male; 25 female).

Among the Richmond dropouts, ten scored 12.1 or better on the ABLE test, thereby surpassing project/study criteria upon entry; and, four (2 males and 2 females) passed the GED test while "enrolled" in the program.



The average age for dropouts was 29.4 years (Indianapolis: 28.8 years; Richmond: 30 years) and the average last grade completed was 9.8 (Indianapolis: 10.3; Richmond: 9.3). The average entry level score for Richmond dropouts (8.5) was higher than the average entry level score for Indianapolis (7.6).

However, when Richmond dropouts scoring 12.1 or better at entry are deleted, the average entry level score for Richmond declines to 7.4

Reasons for "dropping rout" ranged from illness and lack of interest (e.g., merely following referral from their WIN social worker) to entering the military or obtaining employment.

For 92% of Indianapolis dropouts the income level was \$10,000 or below; for 87% of Richmond dropouts the income level was \$10,000 or below.



#### STUDY CONCLUSIONS

Of the eight students (5 at Indianapolis; 3 at Richmond) testing at Level 1 (i.e., grades 0 - 4.9) upon entry, three progressed to Level 2 during the course of the study: two with grade gains of 1.0 and 2.4 (average age: 42.5 years) at Indianapolis and one with a grade gain of 3.1 (age: 37 years) at Richmond).

Least progress in the Level 1 group was recorded for the two remaining students (average age: 42.5 years) at Richmond: -0.1 and -0.6 grade changes. For the three students (average age: 51 years) at Indianapolis not progressing to Level 2, however, there was significant progress: two doubled their entry scores (1.3 -2.6) for a 100% grade gain and one made a 0.6 grade change for a 15% gain.

Within the Level 1 group, the average grade increase for all students was 1.32 at Indianapolis and 0.8 at Richmond.

Lavel 1 students were generally categorized as "non readers" and Laubach instructional materials were utilized at both sites. Consequently, computer-assisted instruction (CAI) at this level was introduced/utilized at Indianapolis only with discretion and after extended observation of the students.

There were two computer-assisted students at Indianapolis: one (a Type 4 learner) made a grade gain of 1.0 (4.1 - 5.1) with 3 hours CAI and progressed to Level 2; the other (a Type 4 learner) made a grade gain of 0.6 (3.9 -4.5) with 5 hours CAI.



There were twenty-five students entering at Level 2 (i.e., grades 5.0 -8.9): 15 at Indianapolis and 10 at Richmond. Progress to Level 3 during the course of the study was recorded for seven students at Indianapolis and six students at Richmond.

The least grade gain made by Level 2 students was a 0.2 grade gair at Richmond (Type 1 Learner) and a 0.6 grade gain at Indianapolis. The greatest grade gain was a 5.8 (Type 4 Learner) at Richmond and 5.1 at Indianapolis.

The average grade gain recorded for students progressing to Level 3 was 3.82 at Richmond (average age: 37 years) and 3.66 at Indianapolis (average age: 44.8 years). The average grade gain for students not progressing to Level 3 was 1.98 at Indianapolis (average age: 37 years) and 1.18 at Richmond (average age: 31 years).

The five students progressing to Level 3 at Indianapolis who received computer-assisted instruction recorded the following scores:

- 1 a 2.1 grade gain (8.1 10.2) 02.4 CAI hours 2 a 5.1 grade gain (6.4 11.5) 22.0 CAI hours
- 3 a 3.4 grade gain (7.3 10.7) 22.0 CAI hours T-2
- 4 a 4.3 grade gain (8.1 12.4) 16.0 CAI hours Y-4
- 5 a / 1 grade gain (8.5 12.9) 10.2 CAI hours T-1/4

Average Grade Gain: 3.86 Average Age: 43.6 years

There were 17 students entering the program at Level 3 (i.e., grades 9.0 - 12.0+): 5 at Indianapolis and 12 at Richmond.

Progress beyond Level 3 (e.g., scores above 12.0 or passing the GED test) was recorded for seven students: 3 at



Indianapolis (average age: 30.3 years) and 5 at Richmond (average age: 25 years): the average grade gains were 1.9 at Indianapolis and 2.46 at Richmond.

Of the three Indianapolis students progressing beyond

Level 3, two received computer-assisted instruction and
recorded grade gains of 3.1 (21 hours CAI) and 0.9 (0.5 hours

CAI).

The GED test was passed by three Level 3 students: 2 at Indianapolis (average age: 25.5 years) and 1 (age: 40 years) at Richmond. This is the only instance when the average age at Indianapolis fell below that of Richmond. Of the two Indianapolis students one recorded a 0.9 grade change (11.1 - 12.0 with 0.5 hours CAI) and the other recorded a 1.7 grade change with no CAI. The Richmond student recorded a 0.8 grade change (10.6 -11.4).

For the remaining Level 3 students, average grade gains were 2.4 (average age: 49 years) at Indianapolis and 0.9 (average age: 37 years) at Richmond.

In summary, the overall, average grade change for all study completers was 2.2 grades at Indianapolis and 1.98 at Richmond. The overall, average grade change for CAI students was 2.6 grades compared with an average of 1.84 grades for non-CAI students (1.69 at Indianapolis and 1.98 at Richmond). The indicators are that CAI students were able to increase their literacy levels at a better rate with the greater differences occurring above entry grade level 5.0:



	CAI <u>Avg.</u> <u>Chg.</u>	Avg. Age	Non-CAI (Indy <u>Avg. Chg.</u>	
Level 1	1.0 gr.	46 yrs.	1.4/0.98 gr.	48.0/40.6 yrs.
Level 2	3.2 gr.	45.8 yrs.	1.8/2.76 gr.	34.1/34.6 yrs.
Level 3	2.8 gr.	41.5 yrs.	0.8/1.60 gr.	23.0/33.1 yrs.

#### Other Program Outcomes

In addition to helping participants improve their literacy skills, the program made a positive impact on self-images and provided them with opportunities to fulfill personal goals. Participant comments clearly indicate that the program created preferable approaches and more positive learning situations than those to which they had previous exposure. Participant comments are reflected in Attachment I.



#### THE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Was 80 hours an appropriate measure for progressing one grade level?

The utilization of 80 hours as a measure for progress was adopted through an interpretation of requirements by the State of Indiana for student progress in adult education classes. However, closer examination of State of Indiana adult education regulations (after the project was in progress) revealed that the 80 hours was based solely on attendance necessary for cost reimbursement by the State to the respective adult education provider. There was no correlation between hours in class and student progress. In addition, conclusions drawn from this study would indicate that if, in fact, 80 hours were based on performance, that criteria would be in critical need of re-evaluation.

2. Does the program work equally well for learners of different ages and backgrounds (e.g., entry literacy levels, income levels)?

From a comparison of the "Findings," there appears to be little difference in grade level change/achievement that could be attributed to background (i.e., entry literacy level and income). However, the factor of age does appear to have some bearing on the study population: the average age of "dropouts" (29 years) was significantly lower than that of "completers" (38 years). Throughout the study the 25-44 age group (particularly the upper end) appear to have made the greater progress. It could be concluded that this ty, e of



program works particularly well for this age group.

It could also be concluded that the "dropouts" chose to explore and/or felt there were more immediate or appealing options than attending adult education classes -military, jobs, etc. In addition, there were added pressures of securing adequate child care.

It could also be assumed that dropouts experienced or were more susceptible to peer pressure: "You don't want to be going to them classes." - i.e., to be identified with an assumedly "remedial education" program.

Certain implications (perhaps, another study) can also be drawn about the assumed "products" of a larger urban school system compared with a smaller, more rural school system; as well as student populations where one is totally urban black and the other predominately small city, rural white.

3. Does one method appear better suited for a certain "type" learner - e.g., as identified by the 4-MAT test?

Of the 50 completers, 29 received the 4-MAT test: 10 at Indianapolis and 19 at Richmond. Two Indianapolis students received split scores (e.g., on the borderline between type 1 and 4) and those instances are noted in the tabulations.

A summary of learner types as identified through the 4-MAT system is as follows:

Type 1 learners tend to ask "Why"? Their perceptions are founded on concrete experience. Information is processed by way of reflective observation. These learners are analytical and probing; they seek a connection between their values and how learning relates to those values.



Type 2 learners as "What"? Perceptions are based upon abstract conceptualization, and, as is the case with Type 1 learners, information is processed via reflective observation. These learners like precision and factual information presented in an organized and precise format. They prefer to accumulate knowledge while readily accepting the authority figure who imparts that knowledge.

Type 3 learners as "How"? Like Type 2 learners, they perceive by abstract conceptualization, but they process information by active experimentation. These learners make marvelous "tinkerers." They like to discover how something works and enjoy finding out how an abstract idea works in reality. They are doers who search for practical application of knowledge.

Type 4 learners ask "If"? Perceptions are founded upon concrete experience, and information is processed with active experimentation. These learners are able to see complex relationships between things and ideas. They are infectious in their enthusiasm about learning. Type 4 learners have a talent for creatively synthesizing the skills and knowledge others provide.

("Overview of Theories and Findings on Learning Styles" Developed by McCarthy, 1980.)

The 4-Mat System was used to indicate "learning styles" of participants who were study "completers". Results of the test relating to mean percentage of learning increases when compared with "type learners" are as follows:

			<u>Indianapolis</u> (10)			Richmor	<u>nd</u> (19	)
Туре	1			28%	(3.5)		26.25	% (8)
	!	Range:	13% -	52%		3% -	65%	
Type :	2			47%	(2.5)		26%	
		Range:	33% -	- 60%		16% -	33%	
Type	3			-0-			50% (	1)
		Range:		N/A			N/A	
Type	4			49%	(4)		48% (	7)
		Range:	24% -	- 1009	6	3% -	134%	



The greatest literacy gains were among the Type 4 learners both at the low (1.3) and high (10.2) ends of entry testing. Indianapolis scores reflected a 0.6 to 4.4 range of grade gains and Richmond scores reflected a -0.6 to 5.8 range of grade gains.

4. What impact does the instructor have on the learning process given the two methods used in this study?

At both sites, the instructor was the key element to student progress. Among their contributions were providing motivation, acknowledging individuality, offering support/showing concern about absences, home problems, etc. The Indianapolis instructor had the additional task of mediating between the student and the computer - allaying anxiety, assuring/affirming exploration, etc.

Students at both sites relied on teachers for help whenever there were doubts or questions. Most students would make daily, repeated requests for help whether warranted or not. At Indianapolis, the computer program allowed students to monitor and "grade" themselves in most instances. This activity permitted students to gain confidence in their aquired skills and encouraged more active participation in the total learning process. The change in class format also encouraged better student interaction and seeking help among themselves with the teacher becoming more of an arbiter or "final" authority figure. At the Richmond site, one student with exceptional skills in math and science (gained through work experience) was quite helpful in relating math/science



concepts in ways students could grasp and understand.

The Indianapolis instructor is a certified teacher working toward a Masters degree with a reading specialty. She also had worked within the OIC adult education program before it was integrated with the IPS program. Her advanced coursework in computer-assisted instruction was invaluable in that she was able to introduce various computer programs that compared methods/software more applicable to the student population.

[As a result, all computer usage is documented and there are records of program(s) (e.g., which combination of computer-assisted and classroom instruction) may be better suited for a student entering with certain characteristics tracked through this study.]

The original Richmond instructor attempted program implementation at a time when other (unforeseen) factors were affecting the overall existence of the OIC program at Richmond. The replacement instructor was a graduate of a previous program and, therefore, possessed not only teaching skills but also an empathy with the students. Enrollment showed a steady increase and classroom activities proceeded according to design (with the exception of hours per day). The program concept attained and surpassed projected goals during the final nine months.

Accurate records were maintained and student progress was appropriately monitored. The instructors were key to providing personal guidance in <u>all</u> aspects of the student's learning process. In addition, techniques were employed to



expand student independence in the learning process.

5. What appear to be the strengths and weaknesses of each method? Which method appears to be better for this study population?

In this study, the strengths of traditional classroom instruction required a close interaction/communication between the instructor and student for an effective teaching/learning environment to occur. It was crucial that the instructor controlled and monitored dissemination of information and was skilled to interpret student responses (both individually and in group settings) to provide appropriate and immediate feedback.

Social/interpersonal skills were engaged/utilized on a continuous basis to enhance the learning environment by both instructor and student(s). Overall learning was influenced by the instructor's abilities and perceptions of student's capacity to comprehend, retain and apply acquired skills in "controlled" classroom formats. Instructional materials were primarily of the instructor's choosing and were expanded and/or embellished as needed to maximize learning.

Weaknesses of the traditional classroom were in that the success of the learning situation may have been disproportionately placed upon the instructor. Among factors that would contribute greatly to the imbalance would be the student's attitude. Some examples might be as follows: "I'm only here because my counselor made me come;" "I thought I'd get paid for coming." Other factors contributing to negative



attitudes would come from parental and/or peer pressure: "Why don't you do something with your life;" or "Why are you tryin' to get educated now? It won't do you no good now."

Consequently, the student's failure to succeed in the traditional classroom setting as an adult becomes a reflection of many of the same influences and pressures that may have contributed to failure at an earlier age.

The traditional classroom approach is particularly tenuous for adult learners because their full participation in the learning process becomes an extension of an acquired maturity both mentally and emotionally. They are aware that they can pursue (and justify) other choices and options. The majority of the students who successfully completed this study were mature and realistic in their decision to participate.

The major strength of computer-assisted instruction in this study was that the student could monitor his/her own progress and affirm their mastery of skills acquired in the classroom setting. Various drills and tests illuminated the tasks and skills necessary to master various subject matter. CAI built confidence and enhanced self-esteem.

Surprisingly, there was little resistance to utilizing the computer as part of the learning process.

The major weakness was that many students did not have the basic reading skills to benefit from the CAI materials that were available.

The consensus is that the computer-assisted approach works well with this study population - particularly when there is



an appropriate range of material/software. The approach allows the student a greater sense of control over their learning and provides consistent and objective feedback.



#### SUMMARY COMMENTS

This study highlights some of the interests and concerns of the Indiana OIC/A State Council about some of the issues and needs of adults seeking to improve their educational performance and, thereby, their competitiveness in an ever - changing, more educationally-restrictive society. An outstanding characteristic of the students who completed the study was their acknowledgement - regardless of age - of their educational deficiencies and their determination to take advantage of an opportunity to improve their status both for personal and societal reasons. An equally outstanding trait of those not completing the study was their inability to conceptualize their futures.

The study has generated far more insight into the needs of community-based adult education programs/studies than this compilation of data can reflect. Among some of the needs and initiatives recommended for exploration are the following:

- The provision of support services (e.g., child care and transportation) for those not eligible for routine state-supported subsidies.
- 2. The provision of orientation/counseling services for referrals from public agencies to assist that person's values clarification and desire to abandon a reliance upon public assistance.
- 3. The resources to psychometrically screen adult learners with apparent learning disabilities and the ability to access appropriate services.



4. The resources to identify and access educational materials and learning complements more appropriate to the contemporary adult learner.

in addition, the study has provided some documentation of areas for improvement in State laws and local regulations governing the conduct of adult education classes and the realistic standards that must be developed to make the education of adults both viable and cost effective.

Although the project study encountered unanticipated challenges, the purposes were met and new areas and initiatives in the area of adult education were identified. The Indiana OIC/A State Council is to be complimented for its commitment to assisting the adult learner and merits support in its continuing efforts to improve literacy among the constituency it serves.

Lastly, linkages were developed among the students through an exchange of site visits and "pen pal"
relationships - that has strengthened their respective
commitments to self-improvement.



### ATTACHMENT I



PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

INDIANAPOLIS



<ol> <li>On a scale of one to five - one being "very excited" and five being "very bored", how would you rate your participation in this class? (Circle the number)</li> </ol>
1 2 3 4 5
2. What do you like best about the program?  Inframation that is buing "used Now
is Frank day Living.
and Iam Vary Excital about it.
3. What do you like least about the program?
Not Enough time for research,
4. On a scale of one to five - one being "very important" and five being "not important", how important do you
think the instructor is to your success in the program?
5. What are some of the important things the instructor did
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Can do at Side the Class Room.
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6. How often did you need help from the instructor?
7. How often did you request help from the instructor?
16 or Mora Times per day
8. What are some of the things you do during the day without needing or asking for help?
Pook Work, Computer Study

9.	How satisfactory was the amorelass each week for completing week? Where one is "very satursatisfactory"?	ng you wor	k each day? Each
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<ol> <li>On a scale of one to five - one being "very excited" and five being "very bored", how would you rate your participation in this class? (Circle the number)</li> </ol>	• • •
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7. How often did you request help from the instructor?  Cayple Times per day	
8. What are some of the things you do during the day without needing or asking for help?	
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ERIC Full Text Provided by ERIC

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How satisfactory was the amount of time you spent in class each week for completing you work each day? Each week? Where one is "very satisfactory" and five is "very unsatisfactory"? 10. Did you have problems with the amount of time you were expected to spend in class? w citting part time, which council a prob laws be consected. What are the most frequent reasons you have to miss class? lds es ou experiencing some proble Resent, some time I come at attend. Do you feel it is beneficial for you to continue/complete the program? Why? beneficial to complete the elp me, to it explayment position to for set uning to chos Site: \_I.O.I.C.. Student Classification Code: H2-/ Date: 2-28-90 G.S. I have attended other Schools came to I indated have been able to learn more here it O. I.C. This is due to the teacher

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9. How satisfactory was the amount of time you spent in class each week for completing you work each day? Each week? Where one is "very satisfactory" and five is "very
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PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

RICHMOND / WAYNE COUNTY



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2. What do you like best about the program?
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3. What do you like least about the program?
to the tret.
4. On a scale of one to five — one being "very important" and five being "not important", how important do you think the instructor is to your success in the program?
1 2 3 4 5
5. What are some of the important things the instructor did to help you?
The you are basing a proffer they were help
6: How often did you need help from the instructor?
CultimuTimes per day
7. How often did you request help from the instructor?
<u>Outime</u> Times per day
8. What are some of things you do during the day without needing or asking for help?
Delling reding mett
9. How satisfactory was the amount of time you spent in class each week for completing your work each day? Each week? Where one is "very satisfactory"?
<u>(1)</u> 2 · 3 4 5



10. Did you have problems with the amount of time you were expected to spend in class?
11. What are the most frequent reasons you have to miss class?
Kida Leing wick
12. Do you feel it is beneficial for you to continue/complete the program? Why?
iles Berns: This is my 3th try and the learned when the last two mouth then re did when the steen Time courses
Sire: Lilayne Co.
STUDENT CLASIFICATION CODE: E-1
Done 4-19-90

tive being	ale of one "very bore ion in this	id", how wo	one being uld you r	j "very excited" . rale your	and
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	you like l			gram? 	
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( <b>i</b> ).	. 2	. ~ 3	4	5	
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	en did you Times per		from the	instructor?	
7. How off	en did you	request he	1p from t	the instructor?	
٠_ـــ	Times per	day			
8. What ar	re some of t r asking for	hings you help?	do during	the day without	•
<u> </u>			. — — — — — —		
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1	. ź	. 3	4	5	



10. Did you have problems with the amount of time you were expected to spend in class?
-Ng
11. What are the most frequent reasons you have to miss class?
12. Do you feel it is beneficial for you to continue/complete the program? Why?
Site: Warne Co.
STUDENT CLASIFICATION CODE: C-1
Dane 4-19-90

ERIC

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<ol> <li>On a sca five being participati</li> </ol>	"very bore	d", how wor	one being ild you ra	"Very excite de your	d" and
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2. What do	you like by	est about	the progra	in dien	1.000 1.000 1.4.100
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ITAG OGTIIG	ale of one "not impor is to your	tant". How	importani	"very import : do you thin pram?	ant" and k the
1	. 2	3	4	5	
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10. Did you have problems with the amount of time you were expected to spend in class?
11. What are the most frequent reasons you have to miss class?
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12. Do you feel it is beneficial for you to continue/complete the program? Why?
STUDENT CLASIFICATION CODE: B-1
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ERIC

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five being "very bored", how would you rate your participation in this class?
1 2 3 4 5
2. What do you like best about the program?
Town.
3. What do you like least about the program?
Detting its like the
4. On a scale of one to five - one being "very important" and five being "not important", how important do you think the instructor is to your success in the program?
2 3 4 5
5. What are some of the important things the instructor did to help you?
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6: How often did you need help from the instructor?
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7. How often did you request help from the instructor?
( <u>) Hit</u> Times per day
8. What are some of things you do during the day without needing or asking for help?
9. How satisfactory was the amount of time you spent in class each week for completing your work each day? Each week? Uhere one is "very mastisfactory"?
(1° 2 - 3 4 5



10. Did you have problems with the amount of time you yere expected to spend in class?
<u> </u>
11. What are the most frequent reasons you have to miss class?
China
12. Do you feel it is beneficial for you to continue/complete the program; Why?
Sne: Wayne Co.
Student Classification Code: F-1
· Dans 4-19-90

ERIC

•
i. On a scale of one to five — one being "very excited" and five being "very bored", how would you rate your participation in this class?
I like the teachers and all of my class mates we have a lot of love in this class and it should cond to love literature and arts
3. What do you like least about the program?
Multima. Du surjean is bet up so you count while and the scale of one to five - one being "very important" and five being "not important", how important do you think the instructor is to your success in the program?
<u>(1)</u> 2 3 4 5
5. What are some of the important things the instructor did to help you?
that learning is real importaginary cities and want of the straining to do anything 6: How often did you need help from the instructor?  Constanting per day
7. How often did you request help from the instructor?  With Times per day
8. What are some of things you do during the day without needing or asking for help?
lilerature and arts. Reading
9. How satisfactory was the amount of time you spent in class each week for completing your work each day? Each week? Where one is "very satisfactory" and five is "very unsatisfactory"?
1 2 - 3 4 5



10. Did you have problems with the amount of time you were expected to spend in class?
No not luer.
11. What are the most frequent reasons you have to miss class?
Worl. and if 10 miss is make up work,
÷
12. Do you feel it is beneficial for you to continue/complete the program? Why?
Continue. My goal is to conque my \$1.6.0 and with out one an Vanness all my goals.  While the shartened Because they are not there  just to have a four they care that we clause an do everything in their power to make sure
SITE: Libring Co.
STUDENT CLASSIFICATION CODE: B-1
: DATE: 4-19-90



# END

U.S. Dept. of Education

Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)

Date Filmed July 24, 1991

